

attention to food safety. I welcome the President's increased interest in the safety of imported food products, and when his proposal is transmitted to the Congress, I will closely examine it to determine if it is, in fact, an effective and adequate response to this problem.

As chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I want to make sure that our current programs are being effectively managed and that both existing and new resources are efficiently administered to promote safe food, especially imported food.

Mr. President, the safety of food product imports is literally a life-and-death issue for many Americans, especially our elderly and our children. Food safety deserves close attention of the administration and the Congress, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the months ahead as my subcommittee continues its investigation and conducts hearings on this important matter.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 30, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,413,146,011,397.34. (Five trillion, four hundred thirteen billion, one hundred forty-six million, eleven thousand, three hundred ninety-seven dollars and thirty-four cents)

One year ago, September 30, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,224,811,000,000. (Five trillion, two hundred twenty-four billion, eight hundred eleven million)

Five years ago, September 30, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,064,621,000,000. (Four trillion, sixty-four billion, six hundred twenty-one million)

Ten years ago, September 30, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,350,277,000,000 (Two trillion, three hundred fifty billion, two hundred seventy-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion—\$3,062,869,011,397.34 (Three trillion, sixty-two billion, eight hundred sixty-nine million, eleven thousand, three hundred ninety-seven dollars and thirty-four cents) during the past 10 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 26, the U.S. imported 8,262,000 barrels of oil each day, 1,726,000 barrels more than the 6,536,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 56.5 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? By U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,262,000 barrels a day.

BAILEY HOWELL

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the State of Mississippi is very proud of the induction of Bailey Howell into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

His college career at Mississippi State University still stands as the most impressive in the school's history.

He was second only to Wilt Chamberlain in the 1959 NBA draft, and he became one of the best professional players ever.

Today, he is living in Starkville, MS, where he spends much of his time engaged in church-related activities. He is a wonderful role model for today's star athletes.

I ask unanimous consent that two articles from the Clarion-Ledger describing his great career be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Clarion-Ledger, Sept. 29, 1997]

HOWELL TO ENTER HALL OF FAME

(By Mike Knobler)

Mary Lou Howell will never forget what she said to the 6-foot-7 stranger in 1958 at a Baton Rouge church.

"I asked the dumbest question of all, 'Do you play basketball?'" Howell recalls. "I know he thought, 'Oh, this girl is really dumb.'"

"When I told my father, he said 'He won't be interested in you. He's really big-time.'"

Dad, it turns out, was only half right about Bailey Howell, who has been married to Mary Lou for 38 years and tonight becomes the first Mississippi man inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Bailey Howell's brilliant career, at Mississippi State University and with four NBA teams, included enough honors and statistical superlatives to fill most of this newspaper.

Thirty-eight years after his final MSU season, Howell still holds numerous school records, including highest career scoring average, most points in a game and most rebounds in a game, season or career.

No wonder he was the second player picked in the 1959 NBA draft, behind only Wilt Chamberlain.

But talk to Howell and the people who know him and you hear less about the numbers and more about the man behind them, a man dedicated to his family, to his God and to never-ending competition.

Former Boston Celtics teammate Satch Sanders tells of Howell's approach to pregame layup drills. Most players jogged through them casually; Howell sprinted fullspeed.

"You had to get out of the way," Sanders says. "We'd say, 'Bailey, save something for the game.' His philosophy was: If you ever take it easy going to the basket, there's a strong possibility you'd do that in a game."

Son-in-law Scott Stricklin tells of a two-on-two game he played during his first vacation with the Howell family. It was Stricklin and Howell against the two other sons-in-law.

"The other guys wound up with bruises and knots on their heads," Stricklin says. "He was almost 60 and playing with guys in their 20s, but he was so competitive it was like an NBA championship game."

Howell competes even when he's mowing his lawn. He times himself, always pushing to work faster and more efficiently. "I'm one-third through," he'll shout.

That kind of relentless intensity helped make him a dominating center in college and a six-time all-star forward in the NBA.

Howell won NBA championships with the Celtics in 1968 and 1969 after winning State's first Southeastern Conference championship in 1958. One of Howell's few regrets is that that 24-1 team in 1958 wasn't allowed to try for an NCAA championship. The Bulldogs were chosen for the NCAA Tournament, but Mississippi government leaders barred State from participating because it would have played against racially integrated teams.

Decades later, coach Richard Williams paid his respect to Howell by including him in the official traveling party for State's 1995 trip to the NCAA regionals and its 1996 trip to the Final Four.

VERY SPECIAL HONOR

Delta State University coach Margaret Wade and player Lusia Harris are the only Mississippians in the Basketball Hall of Fame. Howell joins them tonight. He'll be escorted by friend, teammate and Hall of Famer John Havlicek.

"It's just a very special honor and a thrill," Howell says. "To be recognized alongside those individuals that are in there, it's just really, I really struggle with words to express just how special it is."

Bailey and Mary Lou Howell will be accompanied at tonight's induction ceremony in Springfield, Mass., by their three daughters. One of those daughters, Beth Hansen of Jackson, named one of her sons after her dad. Bailey Hansen will be there tonight, too.

Children and family have always been important to Bailey Howell. One time, it carried over onto the basketball court.

As most parents do, Bailey and Mary Lou used to spell out things around the house that they didn't want their young daughters to understand. One night as an opponent lined up for a free throw, Bailey turned to a teammate and said, "If you get this rebound, hit me. I'll be going b-a-c-k-d-double o-r."

During the season, the Howells used to live wherever Bailey played—first Detroit, then Baltimore, then Boston and finally Philadelphia. In the offseason, though, they always returned to Starkville, where Bailey and Mary Lou still live.

When Bailey Howell retired in 1971, he thought about going into coaching.

"At 35, at the age where moving my children was really bothering them, I decided that wasn't something I could do," he says.

But he stayed involved in basketball by working for shoemaker Converse for almost 23 years. And for six of the last seven years, he has served as a role model at the NBA's mandatory rookie orientation camp run by his former teammate Sanders, an NBA vice president.

"He'd talk about staying grounded, thinking in terms of family, religion," Sanders says. "Just homespun good sense. Bailey has always been a highly respected player, but more than that he has always been very grounded. The Hall of Fame as far as I'm concerned will be a better place with Bailey in it."